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Museums & Cultural Affairs

The City of El Paso Public Arts Committee (PAC) Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 3:30 PM City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm. **Members Present:** Rida Asfahani, R. Katherine Brennand, Floyd Johnson, Martina Lorey, Marina Monsisvais, Ray Parish, and Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengtson. **Members Absent:** Jesus Alvarado, Ken Gorski and Jane Thomas. **Others Present:** Patricia Dalbin and Maria Aragon.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Approval of Minutes. Chair asked for motion to approve minutes for last meeting on December 14, 2010. Martina Lorey moved to approve the minutes as presented; Rida Asfahani seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and action on the five artists selected for the Bataan Trainway Improvement Project. Pat Dalbin provided the resumes for the five artists selected by the Artist Selection Panel in December, and a PowerPoint presentation highlighting previous works for review and consideration. General discussion about the strategic location for each of the artworks, mentioned continuity throughout the project, and mentioned design concepts will come back for PAC review before moving forward with installation. Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengtson motioned to approve the recommendation of the Artist Selection Panel for the five artists selected; Rida Asfahani seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and action on the final design for the mural on Stanton Bridge Project. Pat Dalbin mentioned that the artist met with the community stakeholders and based on those discussions, design proposal and maquette were brought forward for review and consideration. General discussion about aesthetics consistent to region, fabrication to include special 3D effect paints and tile, project to commence in two months and be completed by end of calendar year, and removing the air balloons from the final product because they represented New Mexico. Chair asked for motion to approve the proposed mural design. Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengtson motioned to approve the design with the removal of the air balloons on the far right corner; Marina Monsisvais seconded; Ray Parish and Rida Asfahani opposed the motion to remove the balloons; members voted and the motion to eliminate the balloons passes by majority vote.

6. Discussion on the Public Art status report. Pat Dalbin provided brief status on existing projects and encouraged the PAC to drive by the sites to glance at the final product. Brief discussion about the color blue at Cleveland Square; Pat stated that the City is still experiencing budget deficits and does not foresee changes in near future. Pat announced ribbon-cutting event for the Airport Art Windows on February 17. Katherine Brennand mentioned that the stakeholders for Artspace will be in El Paso next week to begin implementation of Phase 3, and provided a brief update of current events around Artspace. Pat Dalbin mentioned that Governor Perry is proposing to abolish the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) funds, and if so, MCAD and Public Art would lose a significant funding source. Brief discussion about how Board and Committee members can get more involved by initiating conversations with State Legislature. Maria Aragon will email the contact information for Texas Legislators today.

7. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm. Next meeting scheduled for March 8, 2011.

Approved for content by:
Patricia Dalbin, Public Art Program Coordinator

Respectfully submitted by:
Maria Aragon, Administrative Assistant